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April 20, 2007

White Mountain Regional Transportation Profile Study

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

04/17/2007 - 10:00 a.m.

Navajo County Show Low Road Yard
1100 E. Thorton Road
Show Low, AZ, 85901

Meeting Minutes

ATTENDING:

Bill Pederson, ADOT CCP
Ed Wilson, ADOT- Holbrook District
Herbert Tate, White Mountain Apache Tribe
Rick Fernau, City of Show Low
Spencer Isom, Town of Snowflake
Richard Palmer, White Mountain Apache Tribe

Charlene FitzGerald, ADOT TPD
Thomas Malone, Town of Springerville
Bill Kopp, City of Show Low
Chris Bilecki, Apache Sitgraves national Forest
Michael Lomayaktewa, BIA Ft. Apache Agency

Consultants: Thomas Herz, URS
Aaron Iverson, URS



MEETING MINUTES:

Charlene FitzGerald welcomed the meeting participants and introduced the Study Team. Charlene provided an overview of ADOT's effort to conduct a series of 11 Regional Transportation Profiles, outlined the mandates, and overall guidance for conducting the studies. Charlene thanked the TAC members for attending the meeting and outlined the role of the Technical advisory committee and their needed input and contribution in the study process. Charlene placed particular emphasis on the TAC member's role to provide:

- Relevant study information
- Identification of study stakeholders
- The TAC's role to be study champions

Charlene pointed out that the meeting hand-out included a preliminary list of potential stakeholders and asked the TAC members to review the list and add information regarding individuals, and additional stakeholders.

Thomas Herz with URS followed Charlene's introduction by providing an overview of the White Mountain Regional Transportation Profile study. Thomas provided information regarding the study context and area, study purpose, objectives, approach, study team and schedule. Thomas also reported on an initial series of issues.

Bill Pederson with ADOT CCP explained the approach taken by ADOT in conducting the Public Participation process and pointed out that Debra Duerr with URS was assigned to lead the Public Involvement process for the Study.

Aaron Iverson with URS provided an overview of the currently ongoing existing conditions overview and explained the series of maps included in the handout. Aaron pointed out that the basis for the initial analysis is ADOT's HPMS data set that will be used to map initial system conditions. Aaron emphasized the role of the TAC to supplement the HPMS information with local data where possible.

During the presentation the following comments were made:

- Concho Highway, the extension of SR 277 east should be considered a State Highway since it provided regional access and mobility;
- Penrod Road is a local extension of SR 77 South and is also providing regional connectivity; There is a new development: Show Low Bluff with 3,500 homes planned adjacent to Penrod Road;
- Vernon Road offers an opportunity for a additional regional connection;

- SR 73 is in need of improvements especially pavement. In recent years more people are using SR 73 to bypass the Show Low Pinetop area;
- Emergency Routes are of great concern because access to region is limited to the State Highways; If one of the routes is closed traffic has to be rerouted onto local routes if possible;
- Access Management is of great importance especially in the developing areas; enforce access management during the planning phases; Navajo/Apache sub-regional transportation study;
- Show Low is in the process of updating its general plan recommendations should be incorporated in the WMRTPS;
- Passing lanes are needed on SR 260 as well as acceleration and deceleration lanes; a high number of crashes occur when drivers attempt to access the high speed corridor; several fatalities have occurred in the recent past;
- The White Mountain Apache Tribe has just finished a 20 year transportation Plan that should be considered in the WMRTPS;
- Seasonal traffic on state routes is a major concern, which impacts local circulation during high tourist times; tourists are using SR 73 as a shorter route to the Skiing area in Pinetop/Lakeside.
- There was a higher than usual number of pedestrian accidents on SR 73;
- Show the flood prone areas in the environmental overview;
- Include the Navajo, Zuni, Hopi, and San Carlos Apache Tribes at the TAC level and as stakeholders;
- Show lakes on the environmental overview maps;
- The next meeting was set for the second or third week of June on Tuesday at 1 p.m.